

BOOK NOTICE

Brazil. By Mulford B. Foster and Racine Sarasy Foster. The Jaques Cattell Press, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1945. 9 x 6 inches. xii + 314 p., illus., blue cloth, \$3.50.

This book will please collectors and natural history enthusiasts, regardless of their specialties, because it is a straightforward account of the experiences and explorations of the Fosters in the jungles and highlands of Brazil in their search for bromeliads, orchids and cacti. It embraces their everyday life, including the hard work, the disappointments, the joy of discoveries, the inconveniences of travel, the help of their friends, the amusing incidents, the scenery of the places they visited, the customs of the inhabitants, the occasional dangers to which they were exposed and all that goes with exploration. Most collectors and explorers know that their trips are not a continuous series of thrilling adventures and that the thrills and hair-raising experiences, if they have any, are more than counterbalanced by hard work, disappointments and sometimes severe inconveniences.

This is not to say that the daily happenings described by the Fosters are not without interest. In addition to their absorbing interest in bromeliads and other plant life, the Fosters were keenly aware of everything that was going on and they make you one of their party by their interesting and entertaining descriptions. Even though you are not a botanist, you will like this book because the Fosters are experienced and fascinating travelers and narrators. They do not bore you by dwelling exclusively upon their special interests. You will be pleased with their impressions and knowledge of Brazil and with their numerous and varied experiences involving the exhausting three hours it took Mr. Foster to get a check cashed in a Brazilian city; slow, hot, dirty train rides; a 15 lb. turkey that cost only 45 cents; their discoveries of new species of plants; hungry dogs and thin pigs; bird and animal life; a native dance on cacao beans to give them polish; the difficulty of collecting plants that grow 100 feet from the ground; descriptions of the inhabitants of the country; scenic paradises of colored flowers and foliage; iridescent butterflies; snakes; steep and perilous climbs; torrential rains, and cloud-bursts.

The whole book is one of absorbing interest and is enjoyable and informative. Whether you are a botanist or not you should accompany the Fosters on their 12,000 mile trip through Brazil, which is illustrated by 141 photographs and numerous drawings by the authors.—H. B. W.